

grow brighter and brighter as the years, the decades and the centuries shall deck its diadem with their stars of remembrance and gratitude. That grand deed can never cause our fair Columbia to crimson with shame. It has imparted to her and her heroic son a glory and a fame whose immortal radiance will be the inspiration of all coming generations. Let us, then, treasure that day and that deed in everlasting remembrance, hallowing its returning anniversaries with our deepest patriotism and devotion. In doing this we would set forth and declare:

*First*, That we bow in humble thanks to the great God of liberty that the guilty system of American slavery has been banished from our land forever, and that its last lingering traces are retreating before the majestic front of a newly inspired civilization and Christianity. We recognize His infinite wisdom and justice in the shaping, controlling and directing of the mighty struggle which culminated in the disenthralment of our race, and the redemption of the Republic from the sin of slavery. In the proper exercise and enjoyment of the many rights, powers, privileges and responsibilities which freedom has conferred upon us, we fervently invoke a continuation of His protection and guidance.

*Second*, That the name of Abraham Lincoln should never be forgotten. To him do we look as our country's greatest benefactor. To him will the cause of human freedom ascribe its proudest triumph. In the glittering constellation of freedom's renowned champions, we call his name our brightest star. Around it we will gather the most beautiful and fragrant buds of memory, and weave a garland of undying verdure. May heaven help us to keep ever fresh in our hearts the noble martyr to the cause of humanity and Christianity. And with his great name and fame may it help us, and the whole American people, to ever remember, cherish and honor the grand army of those whose many years of persistent labor, prayers and self-sacrificing devotion burst forth in the happy day which we do now so joyfully celebrate. To Him, to the great and good Lincoln, and to the great abolition army, should we pour out our deepest obliga-